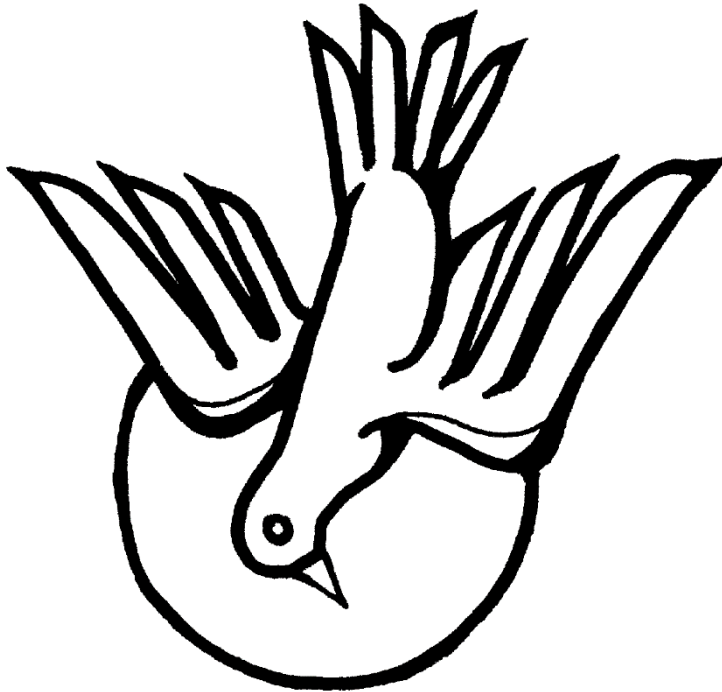


Opening Worship: Spring Semester, 2025
Holy Communion with Welcome of
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary



January 15, 2025
Grace Chapel
Lenoir-Rhyne University
10:00 a.m.

✠ GATHER ✠

PRELUDE: *The Only Son from Heaven BWV 601*
Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized BWV609

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

WELCOME

Dr. Fred Whitt
The Rev. Rick Goeres

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Rev. Dr. Chad Rimmer

We stand.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

During the thanksgiving for baptism, the water poured into the bowl is from the rivers named below.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All Amen.

P We give you thanks, O God, because through water and your Word, you make all things new. Through the waters of baptism, you deliver us from death to life, freeing us from sin to live in covenant love with you and with all of creation.

All Across the ages, you have carried your people: through the transformative waters of our birth, under the bitter waters of our tears, over the stormy waters of our fear.

P Through the Red Sea, you led us into liberation. And when we cried out to you, thirsty to return to our familiar enslavement, you sent Moses to strike the rock and provide us with fresh water in a new place.

All Into the Jordan River, and across the Sea of Galilee, you came to us in Christ Jesus and offered us springs of living water. Today, we remember how far you have brought us. From the communities of our baptism; to the Broad, Saluda, and Congaree Rivers which flow near the Columbia Campus of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary; to the Catawba River in this community in which we now stand; you have blessed us, taught us, and made us your disciples.

P Through the ages, you have remained faithful to each one of us and to our university and its seminary along its journey. And now we gather again to draw water, with joy and confidence, from the well of our salvation.

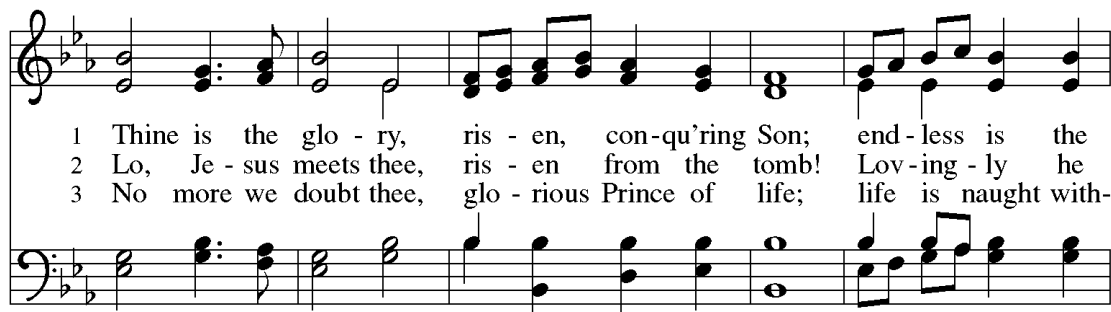
All Renew and refresh us by the power of your Holy Spirit, as we entrust ourselves and our future into your tender care.

P To you be given honor and praise, Holy Trinity, ☩ now and forever.

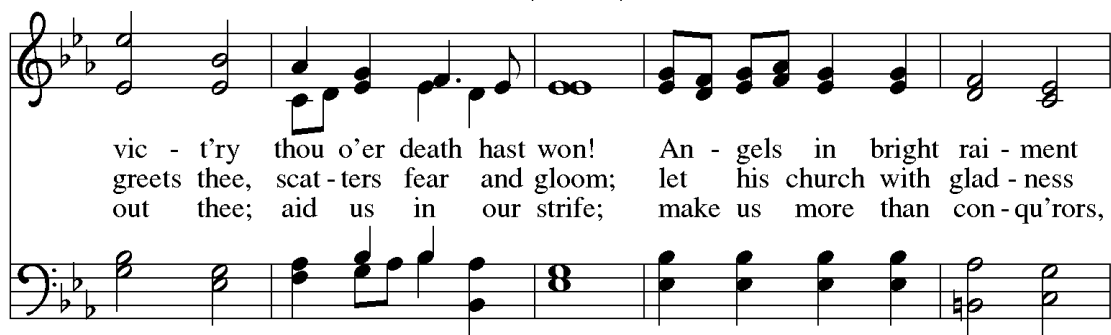
All Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Thine Is the Glory*

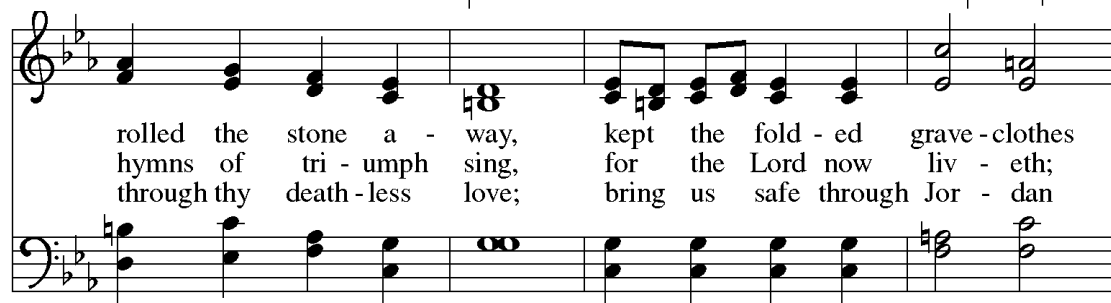
(Thine Is the Glory has been the official hymn of the seminary since 1963. During the procession, various items of importance from the Columbia campus will be brought into the chapel.)



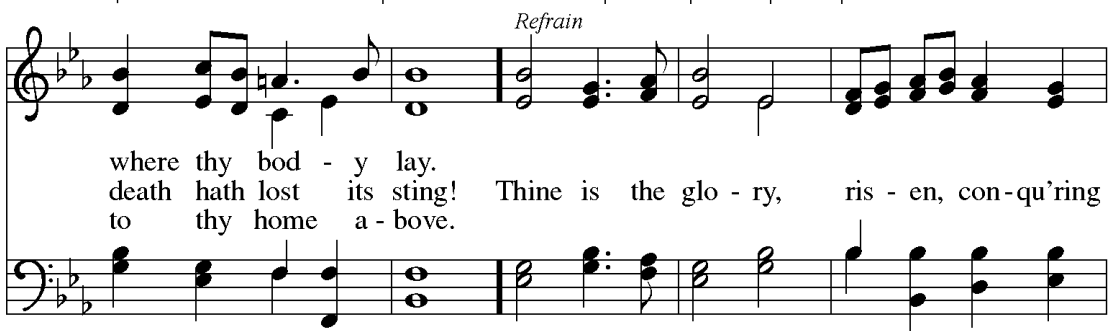
1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the
2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness
out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;
through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan



Refrain
where thy bod - y lay.
death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring
to thy home a - bove.

The hymn continues on the following page.



Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939
 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

P O God,

All **you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

We sit.

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 43:1-7*

¹But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

R God’s word is a lamp unto our feet

All And a light unto our path.

SECOND READING: *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by

saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened,²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

R God’s word is a lamp unto our feet
All And a light unto our path.

MEDITATION

The Rev. Todd Cutter

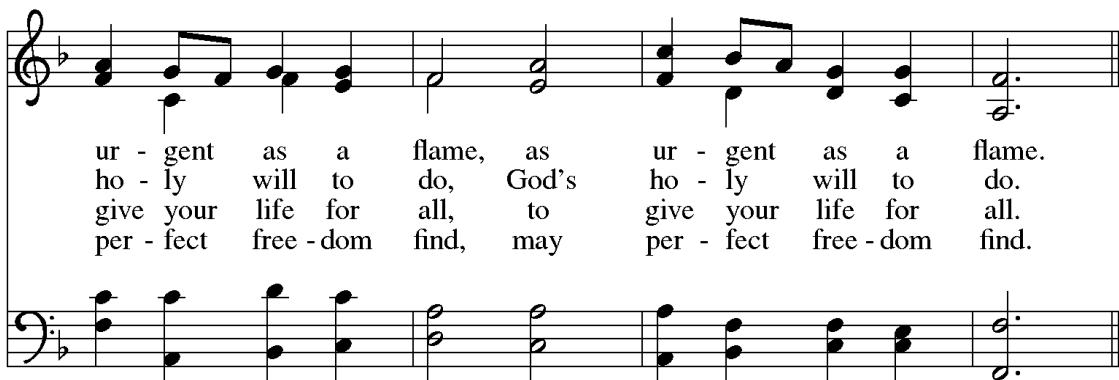
We stand.

HYMN: Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
 2 God called you, “My be - lov - ed Son”; you are God's ser - vant
 3 Straight- way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
 4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be

came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
 true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
 call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
 signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may

The hymn continues on the following page.



Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Rev. Dr. Melanie Dobson

At the end of each petition, the person offering the prayer will say, "Lord in your mercy", and the gathered assembly will respond: "hear our prayer".

✠ MEAL ✠

PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Beverly Wallace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All **And also with you.**

We greet one another, saying, "Peace be with you" or other similar words.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

TABLE BLESSING

P We praise and thank you, O Lord, for heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

All Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P We pray together the prayer Jesus taught us.

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

We sit.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Christ welcomes you to this meal of the baptized and all are invited to share in the Holy Communion. Please form two lines in the center aisle. When you come forward, the pastor will give a piece of gluten/dairy/nut free bread and say, "The body of Christ given for you". You will then dip the bread into a gold chalice of wine or pottery chalice of grape juice as the words "The blood of Christ shed for you" are spoken. Return to your seat by the side aisles. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest when you come forward.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Over My Head

Clayton White, arr.

Pegi Roberts, soloist

*Over my head, I hear music in the air
Over my head, I hear music in the air
Over my head, I hear music in the air
There must be a God out there.*

*Over my head, I feel glory in the air
Over my head, I feel glory in the air
Over my head, I feel glory in the air
There must be a God out there.*

*Over my head, I see trouble in the air
Over my head, I see trouble in the air
Over my head, I see trouble in the air
There must be a God out there.*

I've Got Peace Like a River

The musical score is written for a single voice and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, often using a walking bass line. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with three lines of text corresponding to the vocal melody. The first system includes a three-part harmony. The second and third systems provide a single line of text for the voice. The score concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

1 I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,
2 I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain,
3 I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,

I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul;
I've got joy like a foun-tain in my soul;
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul;

I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,
I've got joy like a foun-tain, I've got joy like a foun-tain,
I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,

I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul.
I've got joy like a foun-tain in my soul.
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul.

Text: traditional

Music: PEACE LIKE A RIVER, African American spiritual

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
All Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

We stand.

BLESSING

P We open this new semester in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

P As the students, faculty, and staff of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary officially begin education and formation on the Hickory campus, we mark this milestone in our seminary's pilgrimage in the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

P With God's help, we, the administration, faculty, staff, students, and friends, pledge to work together that all may find welcome in this place.

All Amen.

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

All Amen! Thanks be to God!

HYMN: *Baptized and Set Free*



1	We	are	peo - ple	cre -	at - ed,	cho - sen	by	God.		
2	We	are	fed	and	we're	nour - ished,	filled	and	re -	freshed.
3	We	are	nour - ished	by	wa - ter,	all	liv - ing	things,		
4	Now	with	praise	and	thanks -	giv - ing,	we	join	the	song.

The hymn continues on the following page.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace! Walk in the light of Christ!

All Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* The Reverend Michael D. Costello, '02, '06, arr.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding

The Reverend Dr. Chad Rimmer, Dean and Rector of
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
The Reverend Dr. Melanie Dobson, Associate Professor and
the Lefler and Wohltmann Chair in Methodist Studies
The Reverend Dr. Beverly Wallace, '96, Director of Lifelong
Learning, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Preaching

The Reverend Todd Cutter, '96, '00, '04, University Pastor,
Director of Spiritual Life, & Director of Counseling Services

Readers	Stephenie Brown Bryce Yamin
Music	Cory Westby, '08, University Cantor Dr. Ryan Luhrs, Associate Professor of Music and Sacred Music Program Coordinator Chapel Choir Chayton Dellinger, Trumpet Pegi Roberts, flute and vocals
Welcome	Dr. Fred Whitt, President, Lenoir-Rhyne University The Reverend Rick Goeres, Chair, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Advisory Committee
Prayer Petitions	Evelyn Fulmore Jonathan Lakeman Juaquin Jones Jeanie Swanson
Communion Assistants	The Reverend David Coffman '01, Newberry College Campus Pastor Deacon Kathleen Cartledge, '11 Natalie Haas Jace Martinez
Sacristans	Lillian Okoronkwo Pegi Roberts Elizabeth Sheedy Quentin Surace
Conferences and Events	Ashley Causby
Live Stream	Brandon Pope

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THANK YOU

On behalf of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, we extend our deepest gratitude to all our faculty, staff, students, alumni, volunteers, and friends who have played a vital role in bringing us to this special day - the welcome of the seminary to the Hickory campus. Your unwavering support, contributions of time and talents, and countless prayers have paved the way for this exciting new chapter in the life of our beloved seminary. As we continue on this new journey, we carry with us the legacy of your support.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ **3rd Annual Martin Luther King Junior Prayer Breakfast:** Monday, January 20, 2025. Breakfast served in the Cafeteria from 7:00-8:30 a.m. The program begins at 8:30 a.m. in PE Monroe Auditorium, and concludes with the Hickory NAACP Unity March at 10:30 a.m. Register to attend this free event at calendar.lr.edu/event/dr-martin-luther-king-jr-3rd-annual-prayer-breakfast
-

WHAT ARE THE WORSHIP LEADERS WEARING?

- ❖ The robe is called an “alb”. The alb reminds us of the garment presented or worn at baptism and serves to remind us that God clothes us with new life.
- ❖ The rope is called a “cincture”, and its function is to hold everything in place.
- ❖ The item around the neck is called a stole. It has been a sign of ordination since the 8th century and is a symbol of the yoke of obedience to Christ. The stole worn around the neck is for those who are ordained to the ministry of word and sacrament. You may also notice some who wear a diagonal stole. These are worn by Deacons, those who are ordained to the ministry of word and service.